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QUARANTINE REGULATIONS RELATIVE TO FRUIT VESSELS.

OCTOBER 8, 1912.

To Medical Officers in Command and Acting Assistant Surgeons in Charge, National Quarantine Stations.

SIRS: Bureau letter of August 9 is hereby modified in order to exempt fruit vessels, from other than infected or suspected ports, from fumigation oftener than every fourth arrival, provided the vessel is breasted off from any wharf where she may dock in the foreign port, all hawsers protected by rat guards of accepted design, and said precautions are certified on the consular bill of health; it being stipulated that the breasting off of the vessel from the wharf and the use of rat guards are to be continued as at present while the vessel is in the United States port.

Respectfully,

RUPERT BLUE,
Surgeon General.

THE PLAGUE SITUATION.

Porto Rico: No case of plague has been reported in Porto Rico since September, 12. The outbreak may, therefore, be considered to be well under control in so far as the possibility of the disease affecting man to any great extent is concerned. The infection, without doubt, still persists in a very few localities to a limited extent among rats. These rodent foci, however, will be eradicated as rapidly as it is possible to discover them. It appears that the infection among rats was at no time extensive, for out of 17,000 rats caught and examined previous to September 21 only 62 were found plague infected.

California: During the week ended September 21, which is the last for which reports have been received, two plague-infected squirrels were found in Contra Costa County, Cal.

Russia: Plague continues present in the Astrakhan Government. There have been but few cases, however, at any one time, and the total from July 17 to September 17 was 53 cases. At Kherson a plague-infected rat was found on the steamship *Queensmore*, which had arrived from Odessa. The finding of plague-infected rats on vessels in this way is not an uncommon occurrence. It illustrates the manner in which the disease is spread from country to country and from continent to continent by vessels, in the absence of human cases and without there being anything to indicate the presence of the infection on the vessel.

Argentina: Several cases of plague occurred in a hospital in Buenos Aires. No cases are known to have occurred outside of the hospital, and there has so far apparently been no spread of the disease.

China: The last reports received from China, which were for the month of August, indicate that plague was still epidemic in Amoy and Hongkong during the month. The disease is undoubtedly still present, although it was apparently subsiding in Hongkong.

Philippine Islands: The last reports received from the Philippine Islands recorded that during the week ended August 24, 2 cases of plague occurred in Manila and 2 in Iloilo. The two cases of plague in Manila were of the septicemic type, and make a total of 7 cases reported in Manila since June 17. In Iloilo there had been a previous case, which, with the two above referred to, makes a total of 3 occurring during the present year. In Manila, although active measures have been taken to collect and examine rats from the sections of the city in which cases have occurred, no plague-infected rat has so far been found.

Morocco: In the latter part of September, 10 cases of plague were reported at Casablanca, in Morocco. Of these, 5 occurred in Europeans.

POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS).

Buffalo and vicinity: The number of cases of poliomyelitis being reported in Buffalo is decreasing. For the three weeks ended October 5, the number of cases reported for each seven-day period were 28, 14, and 12, respectively. At Batavia, Genesee County, 21 cases had been reported during the month ending September 26. The disease is present in many localities in western New York, but it is impossible at this time to know just how many cases are occurring.

Los Angeles, Cal.: The outbreak at Los Angeles may be considered to be over. During the week ended September 28 there was only 1 case reported in the city.

Guatemala: A case of poliomyelitis was reported during the month of September in Dartmouth, Guatemala, a town situated on the railroad 28 miles from the coast. The case occurred in a native.

YELLOW FEVER.

Yellow fever on vessel.—On October 6 the steamship *Charcer*, from Santos and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, by way of Barbados, arrived at the New Orleans quarantine station with a case of yellow fever aboard. The case was isolated and proper precautions were taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

Mexico.—During the last few days of September cases of yellow fever were reported in Mexico as follows: 1 at Merida, 1 at Laguna del Carmen, and 1 at Frontera.

The disease has been present for some time in the State of Yucatan, where, during the months of August and September, there was a total of 71 cases, and in the State of Tabasco, where, from May to September, there were 60 cases. In the State of Campeche there were 2 cases during the month of September.